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Letter dated 26 April 1995 from the representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the joint statement on Tajikistan made on 20 April 1995 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 81 of the preliminary list, and also of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Kazakhstan to
the United Nations

(Signed) S. LAVROV
Permanent Representative of the
Russian Federation to the United Nations

(Signed) L. KAYUMOV
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(Signed) F. TESHABAEV
Permanent Representative of the
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(Signed) A. AITMATOV
Acting Permanent Representative of the
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ANNEX

Joint Statement on Tajikistan made on 20 April 1995 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic

At a meeting in Moscow on 20 April 1995, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic discussed the development of the situation in Tajikistan and on the Tajik-Afghan section of the Commonwealth border since their previous meeting in Moscow on 26 January 1995 and exchanged views on the prospects for settling the Tajik conflict.

The participants in the meeting expressed profound concern at the situation of the Tajik-Afghan border, where attacks by Tajik opposition fighters against border outposts and posts recently have become more frequent and have assumed a particularly bold and provocative character. They underscored their countries' readiness to continue active joint measures to protect and defend the Tajik-Afghan section of the Commonwealth border in accordance with the decisions taken by the heads of the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

At the same time, the participants reaffirmed their strong conviction that the conflict in Tajikistan could be resolved only by means of political dialogue and national reconciliation on the basis of mutual concessions and compromises. The democratization of all public life and laying the foundations of a market economy are important in order to stabilize the domestic political situation in the country.

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan called upon the Tajik parties to step up the negotiation process under the auspices of the United Nations and stressed their readiness to promote, through practical steps, progress in that process.

The leaders of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs advocated the speedy holding in Moscow of the next, fourth, round of inter-Tajik talks, at which the fundamental questions of a political settlement must be discussed in a constructive spirit in accordance with the agenda for the talks agreed upon earlier by the parties.

The participants in the meeting noted the importance of the statement made by the heads of State of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan in Chimkent on 14 April 1995. The proposal to hold the next round of inter-Tajik talks at the highest level between the Government of Tajikistan and the opposition in Alma Ata was supported in particular.

It was noted that the ideas expressed by the Tajik parties concerning a mechanism for achieving reconciliation are creating, in spite of substantial

differences in the approaches, the basis for concrete work to resolve these questions during the talks. The negotiation process itself must become more regular and eventually evolve into an ongoing dialogue.

The leaders of the Ministries for Foreign Affairs consider that the observance of the cease-fire by the parties is an essential prerequisite for continuing the negotiation process under United Nations auspices. In this connection, they welcomed the decision by the Government of Tajikistan not to make the Agreement on a Provisional Cease-Fire and the Cessation of Other Hostilities subject to a time-limit and called upon the opposition leaders to follow that example.

Having noted the positive importance of the Agreement in order to hold the armed confrontation in check, the participants in the meeting at the same time advocated more effective work on the part of the Joint Commission and improving the mechanism for monitoring observance of the cease-fire with the participation of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) and called upon the opposition not to recall their representatives from the Commission and to cooperate constructively within its framework.

The participants in the meeting emphasized the important role of the CIS Collective Peace-keeping Forces, whose presence in Tajikistan is not only preventing a widening of the conflict but is also stabilizing the situation in the country and helping to establish an inter-Tajik dialogue.

The leaders of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan confirmed the readiness of their countries to continue their participation in the Collective Peace-keeping Forces. At the same time, they called upon the Government of Tajikistan to speed up the process of establishing its own armed forces and border troops with the gradual placing of the basic sections of the Tajik-Afghan border under their complete control.

The participants in the meeting called upon the world community to give greater attention to the questions of peace-keeping in Tajikistan and help more actively to eliminate that dangerous hotbed of international tension. In this context, they confirmed their commitment to continuing the activities of UNMOT, increasing its numerical strength and establishing close coordination between it and the CIS Collective Peace-keeping Forces. The participants stressed in particular the importance of the appeal made by the five Commonwealth States in the United Nations on 10 February 1995 calling for the deployment of full-scale United Nations peace-keeping operations in Tajikistan.

The leaders of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs highly commended the cooperation by the five Commonwealth countries aimed at bringing about a political settlement of the Tajik conflict and confirmed their determination to pursue actively that cooperation.